

LIMEHURST
Rural District Council.

**Medical Officer's
Report, 1919.**



ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE :
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Annual Report.

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STRATHDENE,

TAUNTON ROAD,

NR. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

May, 1920.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Limehurst Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Thirteenth Annual Report, for the year 1919, I have, as far as possible, followed the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Memo. 9, med. and circular 66.

The areas of the several parishes and the total population are as follows :—

Parish.	Area Acres.	Population 1911 Census.	Estimated by Registrar General Dec. 31st, 1919.
Alt.....	1,113;603	1,032	
Bardsley	883;076	2,215	
Hartshead ...	1,018;602	700	
Littlemoss ...	703;802	556	
Waterloo	341;139	3,966	
Woodhouses ...	627;545	830	
	4,687,767	9,299	for Births 9,281 for Deaths 8,909

Married Women and Children in the Barracks, 117

The district lies mainly between the County Borough of Oldham on the north, the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne on the south, and extends S.W. to N.E. from near the City of Manchester to the West Riding of the County of Yorkshire. It consists of six Parishes (two urban in character, two partially so and two rural). The latter being mainly on the elevated part of the district. Heights above O.D. vary from 215·0 to 1000·0 feet, and with the exception of the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo the district is difficult of access ; roads being practically old cart roads are narrow and in an indifferent state of repair, especially so, since the commencement of the War. Some are tenure length roads and their condition is at present deplorable. The difficulty of dealing with the latter will, no doubt, be evident to yourselves.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Sex				Rate per 100
Births.	Male.	Unstated.	Female.	Total.		
March Quarter	20	2	16	38		16·38
June do.	12	1	14	27		9·12
Sept. do.	15	1	18	34		14·65
Dec. do.	26	4	16	42		19·82

Total 145 Births registered.

Legitimate	Males	71	Females	64	}	15·62.
Illegitimate	do.	4	do.	6	}	

DEATHS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	Total.	Rate per 1000
March Quarter	17	17	34	15·26
June do.	15	15	30	13·69
Sept. do.	10	14	24	10·77
Dec. do.	8	17	25	11·22
			113	12·60

TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.

Inward.

March Quarter	6	4	10
June do.	5	4	9
Sept. do.	4	5	9
Dec. do.	4	0	4
			32

Outward.

March Quarter	0	1	0
Sept. do.	1	0	2
			30
			—
		Total.....	143
			16·05

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	MALES.	FEMALES.
March Quarter	1	2
June do.	4	2
Sept. do.	0	1
Dec. do.	2	3
Total.....	15 Deaths.	

The proportion of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births registered equals 103·4. There were 5 deaths of children under one month. Rate 0·56 per 1,000.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Measles..... 2 females.

Diarrhoea ... 2	do.	1 male.	Total.....5
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Rate per 1,000.....0·56.

Of these deaths 4 occurred in Waterloo and 1 in Littlemoss.

INFLUENZA.—(purely).

Seven deaths occurred from this disease all in the March Quarter. 4 males (1 Alt, 3 Waterloo); 3 females (1 Bardsley, 2 Waterloo). Rate per 1,000 0·79.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary 5 deaths, (2 males, 2 females, Waterloo; 1 male, Littlemoss. Rate per 1,000.....0·56.

Other Tuberculosis, 4 deaths (2 Bardsley, 1 Waterloo, and 1 Woodhouses, all females). Total deaths, 9.

Rate per 1,000.....1·01.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

(Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.) Total Deaths, 39.

Rate per 1,000	Bronchitis ... 2·47
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Do.	Pneumonia ... 1·90
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Deaths occurred as follows :—

Males—6 in Bardsley.	Females—3.
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Do. 1 in Alt.	do. 1.
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Do. 1 in Littlemoss.	do. 4.
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Do. 7 in Waterloo.	do. 11.
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Do. 1 in Woodhouses.	do. 3.
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Do. 0 in Hartshead.	do. 1.
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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Smallpox	0
Cholera	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	2
Erysipelas	5
Scarlet Fever	11
Typhus Fever	0
Enteric Fever	0
Continued Fever	0
Puerperal Fever	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	16
Other Tuberculosis	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Measles	85
Influenza	21
Dysentery	1
Malaria	6
Pneumonia	23
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Total	171

Of these, 7 cases occurred in Alt ; 16 in Bardsley ; 11 in Hartshead ; 16 in Littlemoss ; 110 in Waterloo ; and 11 in Woodhouses. In Waterloo 60 cases of Measles (October and November). Littlemoss Branch of the Christ Church Schools was closed by order, from February 14th until the 3rd of March, through Influenza ; Waterloo Council School (Infants) from October 20th to November 10th through Measles, and Park Bridge, Alt School from the 3rd week in March until the 7th April owing to Influenza.

Two samples of drinking (well) water have been analysed bacteriologically and have been found satisfactory.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Measles	0	2	2
Influenza	4	3	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	5
Tubercular Meningitis.....	0	1	1
Other Tubercular Diseases...	0	3	3
Cancer	5	3	8
Rheumatic Fever.....	0	1	1
Meningitis.....	0	1	1
Organic Heart Disease	6	6	12
Bronchitis.....	8	14	22
Pneumonia (all forms).....	7	9	16
Other Respiratory Diseases...	1	0	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1	2	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	0	1
Alcoholism	1	0	1
Congenital Debility	3	2	5
Violence (not Suicide)	5	1	6
Suicide	2	0	2
Other Defined Diseases	20	25	45
Causes ill defined.....	1	0	1
	68	75	143

The amount of Poor Law Relief, gratuitous Medical Relief, &c., granted in the district is, no doubt, better known to yourselves, as members of the Board of Guardians, than it is to me. I have no means of ascertaining this, except from published accounts, but no applications for the same have been received personally. Your subscription to the local District Infirmary and the recommends received in consequence thereof are applied with care and duly appreciated.

The number of houses in each parish are as follows:— Alt, 253; Bardsley, 512; Hartshead, 85; Littlemoss, 152;

Waterloo, 1,008, and Woodhouses, 204 ; averaging for births, 4·19 ; for deaths, 4·02 persons per house for the whole district.

Industries.—Cotton Spinning and Allied Iron Trades, one Colliery, one Manufacturing Chemist, one Brewery, two Wheelwright and Smiths' Works, one Rope Walk, and one Brick and Tile Works.

Water Supply.—Good. The Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board supply the Parishes of Bardsley, Littlemoss, Waterloo and Woodhouses, and certain portions of the Parishes of Alt and Hartshead. Part of Alt is supplied by the County Borough of Oldham, whilst in the remaining upland portions of the Parishes of Alt and Hartshead the supply is obtained from wells, the water being of good quality and practically free from contamination. No cases of lead poisoning have been reported for the last ten years.

Rivers and Streams.—The River Medlock and its tributaries flow through the district, and whilst your Council have Sewage Schemes for the Parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, the storm overflows from an adjoining district enter the same. Crude sewage from the Parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses also enter the river, and the Sewage Works of the Springhead Urban District Council are still incomplete. The latter will (by arrangement) be able to deal with the drainage of a large part of the Parish of Alt. The means and methods of draining the Parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses need earnest consideration.

Closet Accommodation.—It is now about seven years since I advised and recommended the Council to take in hand the work that the large open and wet privy ash pits in the parishes where there is a sewage scheme be converted into water closets, and I earnestly trust this work, delayed through the war, should be taken in hand as early as possible. The difficulties

I know are great, but even so in parishes without a sewage scheme I would advocate the necessary alterations and repairs to existing privies and ash pits (with proper advice as to the possibility of future conversions) be made as early as possible, and that the garden cesspools should at once be abolished.

In the Hamlet of Pittses, Parish of Alt, there are about 40 houses, and great difficulty has been experienced in dealing with the house refuse, as under your existing bye-Laws this duty falls upon the occupiers.

For the last five years very few alterations of privies to the water carriage system were effected, but should circumstances permit, I hope that progress in this direction will be made during the present year.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended to this report.

Schools.—The Schools (8) in the district are well supplied with town's water and the sanitary condition of one is good and the other seven fairly satisfactory. Infectious cases and contacts are excluded during illness. Littlemoss Christ Church School was closed from February 14th to March 3rd through Influenza, and Waterloo Christ Church Infants was closed from October 20th to November 10th through Measles.

FOOD.

No complaints as to quality of milk sold in the district have been received, nor has any application been made for the supply of milk to mothers and children. The County Council administer the Food and Drugs' Acts.

The shops and places used for storing food have been found in a sanitary condition. Three carcases were inspected

and found fit for human food, and three lots of meat seized, condemned and destroyed. No prosecutions.

There was no cattle slaughtered in the registered slaughter houses, all meat with the exception of pork being allocated from the Ashton-under-Lyne or Oldham Districts under the Regulations. Pigs in like manner were killed in your district and allocated to the surrounding districts. Surprise visits were paid to the slaughter-houses, which were always found clean and in good order.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year under notice 171 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified. No case removed to Hospital. These included 85 cases of Measles: 12 in Alt; 2 in Bardsley; 5 in Hartshead; 14 in Littlemoss; 60 in Waterloo, and 2 in Woodhouses. One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum; 11 cases of Scarlet Fever: (1 in Alt, 3 in Bardsley, 1 in Hartshead, 1 in Littlemoss, 3 in Waterloo, and 2 in Woodhouses).

44 cases of Pneumonia (all forms) 5 in Bardsley, 3 in Hartshead, 33 in Waterloo and 3 in Woodhouses.

5 cases of Erysipelas, (1 in Bardsley and 4 in Waterloo.)

6 cases of Malaria: 2 in Alt; 2 in Bardsley and 2 in Waterloo.

1 case of Dysentery in Waterloo.

2 cases of Diphtheria: 1 in Alt and 1 in Hartshead; and 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 1 in Alt, 3 in Bardsley, 1 in Hartshead, 1 in Littlemoss, 7 in Waterloo, and 3 in Woodhouses.

The County Council has a Dispensary in the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

The deaths (7) from Influenza occurred as follows :—Alt, 1, Bardsley, 1, Littlemoss, 1, Waterloo, 2, Woodhouses, 2.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, from Woodhouses, was reported during the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff employed : Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor (joint appointment) and myself.

The only Hospital in the district is the Hartshead Hospital under the Joint Authority for the treatment of Smallpox patients. No cases admitted during 1919.

Adopted Acts. (1904). Power to join in the formation of a Joint Smallpox Hospital.

(1907.) Powers of Section 45, Public Health Act, 1875, for the provision af tips.

(1909.) Powers of Section 49 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, as far as regards Special Expenses.

(1911.) Powers under the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, except parts 7, 8 and 9.

Powers under Part 3 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, as far as it applies to Rural Districts in operation from June 1st, 1911.

Powers under Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1875. Confirmation of Powers under Sections 155, 157 and 160 of the same Act.

Powers under Section 3 of the Public Health (Building in Streets) Act, 1888.

In the year 1900 the Council adopted the Model Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Arrangements have been made at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, for Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis, including Examinations for Tuberclę Bacilli.

HOUSING.

Total number of dwelling-houses in the district, 2,214, nearly all working-class houses. No new houses have been built during the year, nor are any in course of erection. The general standard of the houses is, without doubt, considerably lower than that required under the Manual on Unfit Houses and Unhealthy Areas, Volume I.

A number of houses (viz. 89) have been inspected, and in my opinion are in such a condition that they are totally unfit for human habitation. There are also nearly 900 houses that require sanitary alterations, mainly conversions, to render them completely satisfactory. I have recommended that in substitution of the 89 unfit houses 100 new ones should be built, but as this concerns at least four parishes, four schemes are required. The overcrowding in the district is not acute, only two cases being dealt with during the year.

The estimated population of the district is 9,300. Census, 1911, it was 9,299.

G. F. BOWMAN, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE WORK DONE

During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1919.
as taken from the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. H. Turner.

Number of Cases entered	228
Do. Notices served	{ Informal 162 Statutory 7 } 169
Do. Nuisances remedied without Notices.	29
Do. Complaints <i>re</i> Water.....	3
Do. do. W.W.Cs., Sewers and Drains blocked...	13
Do. Cases of Overcrowding	2
Do. Open Ditches and Sewers cleaned ...	2
Do. Meat Inspections reported	6
Do. Destroyed Bedding	1

Plans have been approved for the following Additions to Mills and Works, 6. Alteration to Shop 1; Temporary Tramway 1; Private Cesspool and Filter 1.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Cotton Mills	4
Print Bleach and Dye Works	2
Iron and Roller Works	4
Manufacturing Chemist	1
Collieries	1
Quarries (working)	2
Breweries	1
Rope Walks	1
Wheelwrights' Shops and Smiths	2
Wadding Works	1
Total.....	19

HAROLD H. TURNER,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.